

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 11 July 2006 at 1800

at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Paul Applegate		
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	John Page	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
	Grant Richards	-	Discipline Rep: CP
	Andy Scott	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	Elizabeth Stoodley	-	Discipline Rep: AE
In attendance:	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Apologies for absence:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO

Item Minute

33/06 Minutes

Andy Scott proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2006 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

34/06 Matters arising

34.1 Sale of accuracy tuffet and trailer (minute 25.1)

John Page reported that he had sold the BPA accuracy tuffet for £400 and the trailer for £200. He had written to Andy Houston of Texair to accept their kind donation to the BPA of an inflatable tuffet. The BPA would need to purchase a petrol-operated air blower to inflate the new tuffet. The cost of the air blower was expected to be in the region of £200 to £220. The Chairman thanked John Page, and confirmed that the balance of the proceeds from the sale of the old tuffet and trailer would be used to benefit Classics competitors.

Completed

34.2 Canopy Piloting and Classics Nationals bid forms (minute 25.2)

The bid forms for the Canopy Piloting and Classics Nationals in 2007 had been issued to all BPA Clubs & Centres with a call-back date of Monday 4 September 2006, in time for consideration at the next meeting (minute 43). There had been a note on the bid forms to say that bid forms for 2007 Nationals and Grand Prix in other disciplines would be issued in autumn 2006.

Completed

34.3 WPC 2006 delegation T-shirts (minute 25.3)

The WPC British delegation T-shirts had been delivered. Unfortunately there had been an error in the wording of the embroidered chest patch. After discussion, Andy Scott proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion to arrange for a replacement overlay patch to be produced and to keep the cost to an absolute minimum.

Carried unanimously

34.4 FS Nationals (minute 26.2.1)

Target Skysports had announced that the Meet Director would be Derek Schofield. Omniskore had now been confirmed as available.

34.5 WPC 2006 Canopy Piloting – Vienna, Austria (minute 27.1.3)

Grant Richards said he had noted from a registration form that WPC CP 2006 competitor Paul Rossouw was listed as holding an FAI A licence. The Committee believed that he should have a D licence, and asked the office to check. (Note: This was called to Paul Rossouw's attention and he is now a current D licence holder.) The Committee noted that it did not appear to be likely that Paul Rossouw, who was BPA-funded, would be available to offer Skills Coaching after the WPC because he was a student at university in the USA and would already have missed the beginning of his new term by competing in the WPC.

Resolved

34.6 Update of anti-doping code and rules (minute 29)

The BPA's anti-doping rules were being updated at the request of UK Sport to meet UK Sport's revised requirements, which now harmonised with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code.

Action: BPA Office

34.7 Trophies (minute 37)

Ian Marshall reported that trophies were signed-for (using BPA Form 225 – Trophy safe custody statement) at this year's CF Nationals. One CF trophy was missing, but Ian Marshall had an idea where it was. John Page confirmed that he planned to review the situation regarding trophies in all disciplines once he had more time during the autumn, once the main season was over.

Andy Scott raised the matter of trophies for the intermediate class in FS now that this had been, as an experiment this year, divided into the European Skydiving League categories of A and AA. After discussion, the Committee agreed that the intermediate trophy should be awarded to the higher category (AA), and that medals alone should be presented to the A category. If it was decided to continue with the A and AA categories, the Committee would inaugurate a trophy for the A category and the names of this year's winners would be inscribed on it.

The Committee discussed the possible re-designation of some impressive old trophies, particularly for Classics, which were no longer awarded. However, the Committee decided against this because it was custom and practice in other sporting associations for no-longer-awarded trophies to be displayed in a trophy cabinet or hall of fame at the governing body's premises. John Page said he had in mind as part of his review of BPA competitions trophies to invite corporate sponsors of trophies no longer in use to refresh their sponsorship with a new trophy for a current event.

35/06 Nationals and Grand Prix 2006

35.1 4-way FS Grand Prix

Andy Scott reported that the FS 4-way Grand Prix held at PPC Sibson on 1 and 2 July 2006 had been fantastic. It had been an exceptionally well-run meet, and had been greatly enjoyed by those who had taken part. The turn out had however been lower, down from 23 to 14 teams, (the first Grand Prix of the year having registered 16 teams). A meeting of teams had agreed to a stand down at tea-time on Saturday, after four rounds and with a perfect weather forecast for Sunday, to watch the England World Cup game on television. The judges had not been involved in this meeting because they had been busy in the judging room. Kate Charters had subsequently received a complaint about the stand-down from an individual (whose name could only be confirmed by Kate Charters) but who was known not to be involved in the competition. But the competitors were happy, as evidenced by several e-mails of appreciation (circulated) that had been received after the meet, and therefore the complaint appeared to have been entirely against the prevailing mood of the competition.

35.2 FS 8-way Grand Prix

Andy Scott was pleased to report that the FS 8-way Grand Prix at Langar on 15-16 July had achieved a record attendance of 23 competitors in five teams. The meet had had good coverage on the NSL website.

35.2 Freely Grand Prix

Elizabeth Stoodley reported that two Freely Grand Prix had taken place. At Target Hibaldstow on 17-18 June, the two category A teams *Avalore* and *Outbreak* that had taken part had worked closely with judge Sue Skull to hone their performances in preparation for the World Championships in August. Only one category B team had taken part. The weather had been fine and the Drop Zone excellent. Last weekend, 8-9 July, at BKPC Cockerham, two category B teams had taken part, both of which were planning to compete in the Nationals. The weather had unfortunately been poor.

Elizabeth Stoodley said there had been a number of issues involving the availability of information in advance and co-ordination and liaison with the host Drop Zone. Some of the most significant issues involved judges' liaison, and the availability of equipment needed for judging, such as monitors. The Chairman said that the judging issues, including equipment, should be discussed with Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator, at the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

The Chairman said that the disappointing turn out at the Freely Grand Prix would have to be borne in mind when considering next year's Grand Prix programme. He said that the Committee had re-instated Freely Grand Prix in the hope that this would generate an upsurge in interest, and feed in to higher numbers of competitors at the Artistics Nationals. The position would therefore need to be reviewed after the Nationals in the light of the number of competitors that entered. Paul Applegate said it might also be helpful to consider the figures for the number of Artistics competitors who pre-registered for the Nationals, and the number who registered on the day.

35.3 CF Nationals

Ian Marshall reported that the CF Nationals had been held on 1-2 July 2006 at UK Parachuting, Norfolk, whom he thanked for hosting of the event. He said that it had been a well-run competition that had been blessed with the most superb weather. If this had been an on-year for selection for the National Team, extra days would have been needed, as it had only been possible to complete two-thirds of the rounds. The competitors had signified a preference for a Friday to Monday meet, rather than a midweek event. A reserve weekend was also needed. Grant Richards, as host DZ operator, said that it had been impossible to complete the full number of rounds over two days because many competitors were competing in several events. It would have been physically impossible to have made any more lifts, and four days was needed for this competition.

Kate Charters had been present to help the newly-qualified CF judges and a new CF trainee judge in this non-selection year, in which there were a number of issues involving judging. Ian Marshall said that the judges would need judging tapes for next year, which was a selection year, and also a DVD recorder so that the tapes could be downloaded. Grant Richards said that the guidance given to host DZs on audio-visual equipment requirements might usefully be updated, to help to ensure that all of the equipment the judges might need was in place. The current guidance was in a letter to host DZs that needed to be updated to state judges' current needs.

Action: Next meeting

The Chairman said that this should be discussed with Kate Charters in her capacity as Judges' Co-ordinator, and that, according to Kate Charters' views, it might be appropriate for her to speak to the Development Committee regarding the purchase of new BPA computer or audio-visual equipment, and the sale or disposal of out-of-date equipment such as VHS video recorders that were no longer used.

Action: Next meeting

Grant Richards said that he had had more medals engraved than were needed because he had no advance information on the number it would have been appropriate to engrave, this being the first time his DZ had run a National meet. The Chairman said it would be appropriate to review the contents of the box supplied to host DZs who were to run a National or Grand Prix meet, with of course, as already noted above, an input from Kate Charters about the judging facilities and equipment that was required. The Committee therefore

decided to review the pack at the next meeting, with a view to updating and improving it in time for next year's competitions.

Action: Next meeting

36/06 FS Nationals dates 2007

Andy Scott reported that the FS World Cup was due to be held in Stupino, Russia, in August 2007. He therefore asked the Committee to consider the scheduling of the FS Nationals 2007 in the light of this. One possibility might be to hold the FS Nationals in late July and early August, in a similar arrangement to this year. Another option might be to hold the 4-way and 8-way FS Nationals separately. Other dates, such as those of the Army Championships and ESL, also needed to be considered to avoid clashes. There was a need to engage with Drop Zones to find the best solution.

The Chairman thanked Andy Scott for flagging up this issue now. He said that 2007 was a selection year for the British WPC team of 2008. The dates of the World Cup could not be changed, so the starting point had to be to work around them. He noted that most of the European nationals were usually held in August, so that remained a strong possibility. He asked the Committee to consult and consider in time for the bid form for 2007, which would contain dates, to be issued after the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

Andy Scott asked John Hitchen (IPC Delegate) kindly to clarify how many 4-way FS teams per nation would be eligible to enter the 2007 World Cup in Stupino.

Action: John Hitchen

37/06 International competitions

37.1 World Parachuting Championships 2006

- FS and Artistic - Gera, Germany: 6-11 August 2006
- CF and Classics - Stupino, Russia: 12-20 August 2006
- Canopy Piloting – Vienna, Austria: 23-27 August 2006.

37.1.1 FS & AE – Gera, Germany

The Chairman said that all the arrangements were in place. He was taking FAI licence stamps with him in case any competitor had forgotten, despite reminders, to bring their FAI licence up-to-date. Paul Applegate pointed out that this was properly the responsibility of team captains.

37.1.2 Classics & CF – Stupino, Russia

John Page reported that the flights had been booked and all necessary arrangements were in place.

37.1.3 CP – Vienna, Austria

The Chairman reported that the British team now numbered five competitors, as two of those on the provisional list of seven had decided not to go. The Chairman said he remained concerned about the organisation of the meet because he had not seen an updated Bulletin or any confirmed arrangements for training at the competition DZ ahead of the competition. This was an unusual approach, and one that did not appear to give competitors much time to become acclimatised to local conditions. However, he now understood it to be likely that the organisers would preface each event by practice rounds. If so, he was somewhat re-assured because this arrangement appeared to be better for safety than relying on training jumps at a DZ over 100 miles away from the competition site, which he considered to be unacceptable.

37.2 European Skydiving League 2006

Andy Scott reported that Bulletin 1 on the ESL Finals had now been published. Online registration with the organisers of the ESL Finals in Spa, Belgium, was now available through the BPA website. At least 6 British teams had registered so far.

38/06 Skills Coaching Roadshows for non-senior teams

Andy Scott reported that there had been two FS Skills Coaching Roadshows to date, and thanked all the coaches who had given so generously of their time to take part. Elizabeth Stoodley reported that two Artistics Coaching Roadshows had been held, one at BKPC Cockerham, where the weather had unfortunately been poor, and at Hibaldstow, which had been more fortunate in its

weather. She thanked the coaches for their help and support. There were two more Artistics Roadshows to be held this season. Elizabeth Stoodley said that although the Artistics Roadshows had been a success, it was for some reason proving to be difficult to translate this into increased numbers of entries at Artistics competitions. Ian Marshall reported that a CF Roadshow was due to take place this coming weekend, 15-16 July, at target Hibaldstow. 12 jumpers had signed up for it, and some of the coaches were travelling up on Thursday. The coaches were providing 17 sets of specialist kit. Another CF Roadshow was planned at BPS Langar in September.

Andy Scott flagged up an item for discussion at the next meeting – T-shirts for coaches at BPA Skills Coaching events, such as Roadshows and Grand Prix competitions.

Action: Next meeting

39/06 Judging matters

Elizabeth Stoodley reported that Artistics Judge Sue Skull had raised a number of judging-related issues with her. The Chairman said that these should be held over for discussion with Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator, at the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

In answer to a question from Elizabeth Stoodley, the Chairman confirmed that he personally signed off judges' expenses claims for payment after checking with Kate Charters that the claim was valid (ie, that the judge had been formally assigned to the meet concerned). He confirmed that judges were entitled to claim the 24 hour subsistence rate of £25 plus car mileage allowance at the prevailing BPA rate, or public transport. Judges for the Nationals claimed from the host DZ, whereas judges for Grand Prix meets claimed from the BPA.

Elizabeth Stoodley reported that Kate Charters had invited her to become a trainee Artistics judge, and she looked forward to receiving the promised judges' log book in due course.

Frank Mallabone had applied for complimentary Associate Membership as a judge, and the office had duly processed his application. The Committee noted that it appeared he had decided to take a year's sabbatical from judging, but would need to judge next year if he was to retain currency.

40/06 Magazine article on the Airkix fund

The Chairman raised the issue of the draft article (circulated) he had written following his and Kieran Brady's (Development Chairman) recent discussion with Simon Ward, Chief Executive of the Airkix wind tunnel. However, the Committee believed that it was not appropriate to discuss this at this meeting because it did not fall within the terms of reference of the Competitions Committee and was properly a matter for the Development Committee and Council. The Chairman said he fully understood and respected this view, and had in any case planned to circulate a paper to the full Council with a view to asking the Chairman of Council to agree to take a telephone vote to allow the draft article to be published in the August 2006 issue of *Skydive Magazine*, as it was time-dependent.

41/06 Criteria for British records

Elizabeth Stoodley asked, on behalf of a competitor, about the criteria to be met to establish and verify a new British record. The Chairman outlined the criteria but asked Elizabeth Stoodley to speak to Kate Charters for a definitive answer. Elizabeth Stoodley said that she had already e-mailed Kate Charters, but had not yet received a reply.

42/06 Coaching fund

Elizabeth Stoodley asked, on behalf of a competitor, about the criteria for support from the coaching fund. The Chairman replied that access to the fund would be available for National Champions who had identified a suitable coach. According to how much funding (if any) remained in the coaching fund at the time, the Committee could consider coming to an arrangement with the approved coach for the coach to invoice the BPA direct to supply an agreed amount of coaching to the National Champion team. The coach would be required to submit an itemised quotation for this coaching to the Committee for consideration in advance.

43/06 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 6 September 2006 at **1800** at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2105.